

FOREIGN OFFICE STATEMENT

October 9, 1937.

The League of Nations has declared that the actions now being taken by Japan in China are a violation of the Nine Power Treaty and the Treaty for the Renunciation of War, and the State Department of the United States has issued a statement to the same purport. However, these steps must be attributed to an unfortunate lack of understanding of the real circumstances as well as the true intention of Japan, a state of affairs which the Japanese Government deem very regrettable.

The present Sino-Japanese affair originated in the unwarranted attack made by Chinese forces on Japanese garrison troops legitimately stationed in North China under rights clearly recognized by treaty. The troop which was manœuvring at the time of the outbreak was a very small unit. The Japanese garrison force was then scattered in different parts, engaged in peace-time duties. After the outbreak of hostilities, Japan did everything in her power to reach a local settlement of the incident, even at the sacrifice of strategical advantages. These facts are sufficient to prove that the action of the Japanese force was by no means premeditated but simply defensive.

China is undoubtedly responsible for the spread of the affair to Shanghai and then to other points of Central China. She openly violated the Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities concluded in 1932 by concentrating overwhelmingly numerous forces of more than forty thousand men in the

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demilitarized zone and attempted to annihilate our Naval Landing Party, numbering but a scant three thousand, and wipe out our 30,000 nationals living in the Settlement, amongst whom were many women and children.

The subsequent development of the Japanese military action has been but the unavoidable consequence of the hostile operations of China, who, ignoring our policy of a local settlement and non-aggravation of the situation, moved and concentrated her large armies against us. The action which Japan is taking at the present time is a measure of defense to which she has been compelled to resort by the premeditated provocative acts of China.

What the Japanese Government seek today is merely the abandonment by China of her anti-Japanese policy and the establishment of enduring peace in East Asia, through sincere cooperation between Japan and China. They have no territorial designs whatever.

In the light of these circumstances, it must be firmly declared that the present action of Japan in China contravenes none of the existing treaties which are in force.

The Chinese Government, lending themselves to Communist intrigue, have brought about the present hostilities by their persistent and malicious anti-Japanese measures and their attempt to do away with the rights and vital interests of Japan in China by force of arms. It is they who should be deemed a violator of the spirit of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War -- a menace to the peace of the world.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, K. YAMASHI, Keoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Foreign Office Statement, October 9, 1937" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of April, 1947.

(signed) K. YAMASHI
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) K. URABE

六四 外務省聲明(昭和十二年十月九日)

日露聯盟ハ其ニ帝國ガ支那ニ於テ執リツツアル行動ヲ以テ九四條約及不戰條約違反ナリト斷定シ米國國務省亦同類ノ聲明ヲ發表シタルガ右ハ今次事變ノ實情及帝國ノ政策ヲ理解セザルヨリ來ルモノニシテ帝國政府ノ甚々遺憾トスルトコロナリ。

今次事變ハ條約上明白ニ認めラレタル駐兵權ニ其キ合法的ニ北支ニ在リタル帝國軍隊ニ對シテ不法攻撃ニ對シテ發シタルモノニシテ當地軍艦ニ於テ清國ニ從軍シタルハ極メテ小部隊ヨリシノミナラズ當地我國駐屯軍ハ平時任務ノ爲各地ニ分散回轉セラレ居タルコト又我國勤勞日本ガ作戦上ノ不利ヲ及ビテ迄モ局地的解決ヲ計ランコトニ飽迄努力シタコトヲ見レバ我國ノ行動ガ何等計画的ノモノニ非ズシテ悉ク自衛ノ措置ニ具ナラザリシコト明カナリ。又上海ニ次デ中支各地ニ軍隊ガ増大スルニ至リタルハ支那側ガ一九三二年ノ上海停戰協定ヲ破リテ非武装地帶ニ四萬餘ノ優勢ナル軍隊ヲ入レ三千内外ノ僅少ナル我國駐屯兵ト爲女子ヲ含ム約三萬ノ和兵在留一

民トチ爲波セソトシタルニ起因スルモノナリ而シテ其ノ後ノ軍事行動ノ發展
 ハ偶ニ支那側ニ於テ帝國ノ現狀に及時局不増大ノ方針ヲ無視シ大軍ヲ移動
 集結シテ我方ニ對シ全面的ニ敵對行動ニ出デタルガ爲我方モ已ムチ待ズ軍事
 的行動ヲ以テ之ニ應ジタルニ共クモノニ外ナラズ要スルニ帝國ガ今日支那ニ
 於テ執リツツアル行動ハ支那側ノ計畫的挑發行動ニ已ムネクセラレタル自
 然ニシテ而シテ帝國政府ガ現下ノ對支行動ニ依リ支那ニ求メソトスルモノ
 ハ前記對日挑發行動ノ根源ヲ成ヌ排日抗日政策ノ結果ト日支兩國ノ民衆ト
 協同ニ依ル東西平和ノ具現トニ在シ何種領土企圖ニ出ツル次第ニ非ズ然テ
 對日ノ對支行動ハ如何ナル現存條約ニモ違反セズ抑ツテ赤色勢力ニ操ラレ
 使トシテ執拗無情ナル排日抗日ヲ實行シ武力行使ニ依リ自國內ニ於ケル日
 ノ地位ヲ排除シ去ラソトシテ今次支那ヲ招害セル支那政府コソ不膠條約ノ特
 許ニ背反シ世界ノ平和ヲ脅威スルモノト言フベキナリ

文書ノ出所並ニ成立ニ關スル證明書

自分、林 義孝ハ外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル
日本語ニ依ツテ當カレ貳百ヨリ成ル外務省文書（昭和十二年十月九日）ト
曰スル證明ハ日本政府（外務省）ノ印章ニ係ル公文書ノ正印ニシテ眞實ナ
ル寫シナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月八日 於東京 林

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ寫サレタリ

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